

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An installation in which an operation of crosslinking a coating, ~~such as an ink or varnish coating,~~ is carried out by ultraviolet radiation or by an electron beam, in the presence of a gas mixture with a controlled residual oxygen content, the installation comprising a chamber having one or more UV lamps or a source of accelerated electrons, necessary for carrying out the crosslinking operation, ~~which is characterized in that it wherein the installation~~ includes an entry device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a labyrinth system, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a channel.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The installation of claim 7, wherein the installation ~~[[it]]~~ includes an exit device adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel ("output channel"), means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a means for creating a pressure drop, such as a smooth profile, the distance between the smooth profile and the surface of the coating being less than the height of said channel.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The installation of claim 7, wherein the installation ~~[[it]]~~ includes an exit device adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a labyrinth system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The installation of claim 7, wherein in addition to said labyrinth system, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and channel of said

entry device, said entry device further includes an additional means for injecting an inert gas and channel such that the entry device includes at least the following five components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a first channel, a first gas injection slot, a labyrinth system, a second gas injection slot, followed by a second channel.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The installation of claim 7, wherein said means for injecting inert gas forming a gas knife comprise a plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The installation of claim 7, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 3, ~~preferably at least 6~~.

Claim 13 (New): The installation of claim 12, wherein the length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 6.

Claim 14 (New): The installation of claim 1, wherein the coating is an ink or varnish coating.

Claim 15 (New): The installation of claim 10, wherein said means for injecting inert gas forming a gas knife comprise a plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question.

Claim 16 (New): The installation of claim 10, wherein the length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 3.

Claim 17 (New): The installation of claim 16, wherein the length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 6.

Claim 18 (New): The installation of claim 10, wherein the coating is an ink or varnish coating.

Claim 19 (New): An installation in which an operation of crosslinking a coating is carried out by ultraviolet radiation or by an electron beam in the presence of a gas mixture with a controlled residual oxygen content, the installation comprising:

- a) a chamber having one or more UV lamps or a source of accelerated electrons necessary for carrying out the crosslinking operation,
- b) an entry device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a labyrinth system, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a channel, and
- c) an exit device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife comprising a plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question, and either:
 - i) a means for creating a pressure drop, such as a smooth profile, the distance between the smooth profile and the surface of the coating being less than the height of said channel, or
 - ii) a labyrinth system.

Claim 20 (New): An installation in which an operation of crosslinking a coating is carried out by ultraviolet radiation or by an electron beam in the presence of a gas mixture with a controlled residual oxygen content, the installation comprising:

- a) a chamber having one or more UV lamps or a source of accelerated electrons necessary for carrying out the crosslinking operation,
- b) an entry device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following five components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a first

- channel, a first gas injection slot, a labyrinth system, a second gas injection slot, followed by a second channel, and
- c) an exit device adjacent the chamber and comprising at least the following three components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, means for injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife comprising a plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question, and either:
- i) a means for creating a pressure drop, such as a smooth profile, the distance between the smooth profile and the surface of the coating being less than the height of said channel, or
 - ii) a labyrinth system.